

February 2, 2015

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: GN Docket No. 14-28

Dear Ms. Dortch,

Virginia Broadband, LLC (DBA VABB) is a small Wireless Internet Service Provider "WISP" utilizing fixed wireless unlicensed frequencies 900MHz, 5GHz, and 2.4GHz in un-served and underserved rural areas of Central and Eastern Virginia. VABB's customer base and coverage area comprises 1,500 customers in 17 counties south of Washington, DC, with some counties considered "bedroom" communities of the Washington DC metropolitan area and home to thousands of federal employees and citizens who enjoy the benefits of rural living, albeit, at the expense of sacrificing sufficient high-speed Internet access to conduct personal and professional business. Our goal is to close the Internet gap in this region by providing a robust broadband service equivalent to what urban and suburban citizens enjoy. Fixed wireless service is that solution.

As a small company employing 12 (twelve) full-time employees, Virginia Broadband does not receive universal service support and has complied with the open Internet rules adopted in 2010. But, as a small company, we are NOT equipped to handle increases in disclosure obligations and enforcement risks - doing so would add additional financial burdens that would adversely impact how or "IF" we could continue to serve the rural population with high-speed Internet. Therefore, Virginia Broadband supports the belief of an open Internet in which lawful content is not blocked. Small WISPs like Virginia Broadband play an important role in their respective rural communities and have not shown to be "bad actors" in terms of open Internet principals and network management regarding prioritizing a content provider's traffic.

The FCC Commissioners must consider the paralyzing repercussions Title II offers for the future of the WISP industry, and the millions of rural patrons they serve; Uncertainty on what the process will be for the FCC to forbear small WISPs from enforcing Title II provisions, uncertainty on what Title II rules will remain, and the undoubted certainty that Title II will lead to many rounds of litigation. Last but not least, the probability that Title II will discourage broadband deployment, not encourage it like section 706 will.

The most obvious factor the FCC must consider is the fact that millions of citizens throughout this nation have little to no access to robust, high-speed Internet – a service that IS and CAN continue to be provided by small WISPs like Virginia Broadband. While terrestrial wireless technology cannot possibly reach every single corner of every rural area, for the past 20 years this industry has flourished and has become a viable sector of our nation's economy, serving hundreds of customers in remote areas with names like "Lost Valley" and "Graves Mountain" in Madison, VA. It is no secret that the wired and cellular providers simply do not see the financial benefit of building their infrastructure into rural, remote areas. Terrestrial wireless technology however has proven its ability to serve these rural areas efficiently, effectively, and with substantially less cost.

To that end, this is the perfect opportunity for the FCC to clear a path for growth of the WISP industry by not adopting Title 11, or at least providing small providers an exemption of the burdensome reporting/disclosure obligations and the additional fees that will surely be passed on to the customers. The WISP community is not going away, it is getting stronger by proving the viability of their service. It would behoove the FCC's Commissioners to find ways to help, not hinder the WISP sector's ability to achieve greater rural access to the Internet, thereby growing our economy.

As for WISPs across this nation - while many are small, private firms providing a valuable service to their rural communities, there is a movement afoot to unite and aggregate this industry through acquisition and infrastructure build-out to enhance, enrich, and contribute to this Nation's economic strengths through the medium of terrestrial wireless Internet service. By providing this service, citizens and businesses have access to an "Internet tool" that helps grow businesses and aids in the progress of education and healthcare. WISP Internet services generates millions of dollars in tax revenues, wage earnings, and a host of other factors beneficial to this Nation's economy. By throttling the WISPs abilities through more stringent regulations sited in Title II and other items on the FCC's Docket; i.e ET Docket No. 13-49 (5 GHz Band), whitespace rulings, antiquated 3650 earth station regulations, and the most recent being the late January 2015 announcement redefining the speed benchmark to 25mbps down and 3mbps up, the FCC is not fully grasping the impact such rulings have – not just to the providers, manufacturers, or citizens, but to the overall growth and strength of this Nation.

As federal/state/local elected legislators and FCC Commissioners come and go over the past two decades, one theme remains consistent in their pledge to the public – bridging the Internet gap in rural America. In a recent conversation with our Virginia State Delegate regarding ongoing state-level discussions on how to provide Internet service in all corners of this fine Commonwealth, his comment rings hauntingly true,

"... we've had this conversation 10 years ago, 5 years ago, 2 years ago, and here we are again today discussing ways to find a solution but no one is stepping up to solve it."

The WISP community is standing up to the challenge! And the FCC should also stand up and willfully facilitate regulations that encourage industry growth to meet the pledge our elected officials (and your superiors) have communicated to their constituents.

We would like to leave you with one final quote we constantly hear from citizens, businesses, and even federal employees (those required to telecommute as part of their federal jobs). When they call Virginia Broadband asking for Internet service at their homes or businesses, only to find out we cannot provide the service due to technical/terrestrial limitations, they reply,

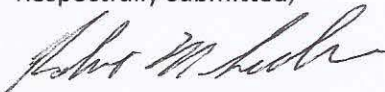
"... I can't believe I live 60 minutes from the Nation's Capital and I can't get high-speed Internet!"

As an industry, WISPs will thrive and serve our rural communities, fulfil the promise of our elected officials, enhance millions of lives, add revenue to our economy, and catch-up with the rest of the "Wireless World".

In conclusion, Virginia Broadband respectfully submits the following recommendations supported by the WISP community.

- Exemption from any new disclosure and reporting obligations for small businesses
- If the FCC adopts Title II, small businesses should be exempt from all Title II regulations
- It would be better for the FCC to wait before it adopts rules - gives time to address small business issues and gives Congress time to act

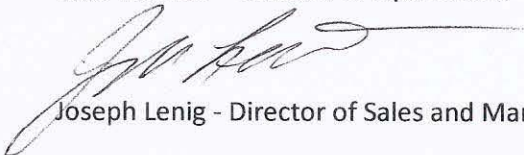
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Sullivan".

Robert Sullivan – President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Truman".

Brad Truman – Director of Operations

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Lenig".

Joseph Lenig - Director of Sales and Marketing